IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

The text of all pending claims (including any withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~ or with double brackets [[ ]] where the text being deleted contains a hyphen "-" that would be obscured by ~~strikethrough~~ as permitted by 37 CFR 1.121(c)(2) and MPEP 714(II)(C)(B) (see MPEP page 700-241). The status of each claim is listed as one of (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Withdrawn), (Previously presented), (New), and (Not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-3, 5, 13, 14, 16-19, 21, and 22 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently amended) A write protection method for an optical disc recording and/or reproducing apparatus, the method comprising:

checking write protection information stored in an RMD (Recording Management Data) field of an RMA (Recording Management Area) area to protect data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, the RMA being separate from a lead-in area of the recording medium; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium according to the write protection ~~information,~~ information;

wherein a plurality of identical write protection information is stored in physically separate locations.

2. (Currently amended) A recording medium satisfying a DVD-R specification to record ~~data, including an entire~~ data in an entirety of a user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, the recording medium comprising:

a [[Lead-in]] lead-in area;

a [[Lead-out]] lead-out area; and

the user data ~~area,~~ area;

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wherein write protection state information is recorded and is selectable between write protection ~~states, and~~ states; ·

~~wherein,~~ upon completion of finalization for writing ~~on~~ in the [[Lead-in]] lead-in area and the [[Lead-out]] lead-out area, the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring write protection of the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or ~~erasing,~~ erasing; and

the write protection state information ~~being~~ is stored in an area separate from the ~~Lead-in~~ lead-in area of the recording medium.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~recording medium~~ write protection method of claim 1, wherein the recording medium comprises a ~~disc,~~ disc satisfying a DVD-R specification.

4. (Previously presented) The recording medium of claim 2, wherein the recording medium comprises a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.

5. (Currently amended) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing ~~apparatus, for~~ apparatus for write protection of a recording medium satisfying a DVD-R specification, the recording medium comprising a [[Lead-in]] lead-in area, a [[Lead-out]] lead-out area, ~~and~~ a user data area, ~~comprises~~ and write protection state information that is selectable between write protection states, ~~and~~ the recording medium ~~is~~ being set to a write protection state ensuring write protection of ~~data, comprising an entirety of the user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files,~~ data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing when ~~the~~ a finalization for writing ~~on~~ in the [[Lead-in]] lead-in area and the [[Lead-out]] lead-out area has been completed, the data being recorded in an entirety of the user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, the write protection state information being stored in an area separate from the [[Lead-in]] lead-in area of the recording medium, the write protection method comprising:

checking the state of the recording medium; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the state of the recording medium is a write protection state.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The write protection method of claim 5, wherein the recording medium is positioned in a case of a cartridge comprising a write inhibit hole for write protection.

8.–12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A recording medium to record data, the recording medium comprising:

a user data area; and

an information area having comprising write protection information, information;

wherein the recording medium is configured to store at least two write protection information in RMD (Recording Management Data) fields of an RMA (Recording Management Area) area to protect the data protect data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, the RMA being separate from a lead-in area of the recording medium.

14. (Currently amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium is further configured to satisfy a DVD-RW (digital (Digital Versatile Disc Rewritable) specification.

15. (Previously presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the write protection information is stored in physically separate locations at a plurality of times.

16. (Currently amended) The recording medium of claim 15, wherein the recording medium is further configured to indicate a write protection state when writing protection information read from one of the plurality of physically separate locations matches writing protection information read from another one of the physically separate locations.

17. (Currently amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium further comprises a recording information area, distinct from the [[Lead-in]] lead-in area, [[the Lead-out]] a lead-out area of the recording medium, and the user data area, and comprising RMD fields, the RMD fields being configured to store information indicative of pre-use certification and defect management in use.

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18. (Currently amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein:-wherein the RMD fields are grouped into a plurality of groups; and

the same write protection information is stored in the RMD fields belonging to the same group.

19. (Currently amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein:-wherein the write protection information is stored in a byte position BP3 of an RMD field 0; and

information indicative of types of a recording medium, indicating whether the recording medium satisfies the DVD-RW specification, is stored in byte positions BP0-BP0 and BP1 of the RMD field 0.

20. (Previously presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium comprises a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.

21. (Currently amended) A disc to record data, the disc comprising:

a lead-in area comprising a read-only area having-and a recordable data area, the read-only area comprising information on- a physical specification of the disc; and-rewritable data area; and

a user data area;

wherein a disc definition structure is stored in a defect management area of the rewritable-recordable data area, and a write-and write protection information of the disc is stored in the disc definition structure,-structure; and

wherein-the write protection information informs to a-informs a recording apparatus receiving the disc whether a recording-whether recording of user data on-in the user data area is prohibited.

22. (Currently amended) An apparatus for recording data on a disc, said-the disc including-comprising a lead-in area and a user data area, the lead-in area comprising a read-only area having-and a recordable data area, the read-only area comprising information on a physical specification of the disc, and a rewritable data area, and a user data area, the apparatus comprising:

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a pickup for recording user data ~~on~~ in the user data area of the disc; and

a controller for ~~checking a write~~ checking write protection information stored in a disc definition structure of a defect management area in the ~~rewritable~~ recordable data area, ~~and for determining~~ and determining whether recording of user data ~~on~~ in the user data area of the disc is prohibited.